A SILENT VOICE

CHAPTER 24: CHANGE

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

...
WELL, I GUESS SHE'S GOTTEN A LOT BETTER SINCE THEN.
WH-WH... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!

I STARTED WANTING TO KNOW...
JUST WHAT I DID KNOW AND WHAT I DIDN'T.
I WONDER WHAT THE OTHERS ARE DOING NOW.
ISHIDA WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO WROTE INSULTS.
THERE'S STILL A LOT...
I DON'T KNOW.

BLAH
BLAH
SAY, NAGATSUKA-KUN...
WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE ARE?
OH, THESE?
I KNOW WHAT THESE ARE. THEY'RE HAIRPINS, RIGHT?
SHINK SHINK
ARE YOU GIVING THESE TO NISHIMIYA-SAN?
NO, SHE GAVE THEM TO ME.
SO I DON'T THINK THEY'RE HAIRPINS.

WHAT, SO YOU'RE JUST BRAGGING?!
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
THAT'S NOT WHY I ASKED!
DANG IT! WHY DO YOU GET ALL THE CHICKS?!
SPLOOP
WELL, MORE IMPORTANTLY, SHOYA...
ABOUT THE MOVIE...
HEY, DON'T YOU HAVE THAT GIRL FROM THE MEOW-MEOW CLUB?!
...I GUESS.
THINGS BETWEEN US ARE GOING SO WELL IT WOULD BLOW YOUR MIND.
OKAY. THANKS.
KLUNK
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE? I DON'T KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE...
EVEN IF I HANDLE THE DIRECTING AND THE SCRIPT, WE'RE STILL GOING TO NEED ACTORS AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS...
AND I WANT TO PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF ROUNDING THEM UP.
OKAY?
HUH? NO WAY...

BUT YOU'LL STILL DO IT, RIGHT? OKAY, THANKS.
...
HEY, I HEARD YOU'RE MAKING A MOVIE? THEN MAKE ME THE LEAD.
YOU CAN'T BE IN IT.
YOU CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN THIS UNLESS YOU'RE ISHIDA-KUN'S FRIEND.
DON'T WE NEED MORE HELP?
THEN, WE'RE FRIENDS!
THUMP
PAT
HEY! KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY YA-SHO!!
EEEEEEEK!
HOW CUTE! WHAT HAPPENED? EEEEEK!
WHAT THE?
OH, UH, I STARTED A PART-TIME JOB, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. LET'S ALL SPLIT IT.
THAT MONEY IS ISHIDA-KUN'S SINCE HE'S LOW ON FUNDS AT THE MOMENT!
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST AFTER THE PRIZE MONEY, RIGHT?!
...
AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU FOUND YOUR LEADING MAN, NAGATSUKA-KUN?

HOW CUTE!
かわいー
OH, CUT IT OUT, EVERY-ONE.
WHO'S THAT?
WHOA! KAWAI-SAN?!
THAT'S KAWAI?!
BOY, TALK ABOUT A CHANGE! THAT LOOKS GREAT!
I WAS IN A BIT OF A RUSH THIS MORNING...
DOES IT LOOK WEIRD?
STARE
OH... HER HAIR-STYLE...

HUH...
FLUTTER

KAWAI-SAN.

EVERYONE SAYS IT LOOKS CUTE, BUT I WASN'T REALLY TRYING FOR THAT...
...
BUT IT IS CUTE!

WHY DID YOU... CHANGE YOUR HAIR?
HMM? WHY DO YOU ASK?
OH, JUST WON-DERING.

JEEZ!
GIRLS DON'T NEED ANY SPECIAL REASON TO CHANGE THEIR HAIR.
WHIPPER
SAY, ISHIDA-KUN... ARE YOU CLOSE WITH MASHIBA-KUN?
...THEY DON'T?
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE VERY CLOSE.
YEAH... NOT REALLY...
OH, SO YOU'RE NOT...
HE SAID HE WANTS TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.
HE THINKS YOU'RE COOL.
HUH?
HUH? HE'S HANDSOME?
STARE
DON'T YOU THINK MASHIBA-KUN IS HANDSOME?

...HUH...
FLUTTER
!
WELL...
IF HE WANTS TO BE FRIENDS, I GUESS THAT...
WOULD BE OKAY.
ISHIDA-KUN...
YOU'LL BE MY FRIEND, RIGHT?
OH...
YES...

APPARENTLY, HIS NAME IS SATOSHI MASHIBA.
YOU'RE HILARIOUS, NAGATSUKA-KUN!
I'M JUST PLAIN HAPPY TO HAVE ANOTHER PERSON TO TALK TO.
NAGA-TSUKA-KUN?
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE BEST FRIEND! RIGHT?! YA-SHO!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE PEEING WITH SOMEONE ELSE!!
TOTALLY AWFUL...
HOW DID YOU DO ON THE TEST FROM THE OTHER DAY, ISHIDA-KUN?
KAWAI STARTED TALKING TO ME MORE OFTEN, AND IT WAS HONESTLY A LITTLE ANNOYING...
FRI
BUT THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW.
THU
I STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, SO I STILL CAN'T THINK OF HIM AS A FRIEND.
LET'S GO TO THE STORE, ISHIDA-KUN.
STOP FOLLOWING MY ISHIDA-KUN!!
NAGATSUKA-KUN LOOKED AT ME WITH HIS EYES NARROWED FROM TIME TO TIME.
SAT
I DIDN'T DO WELL EITHER. WHAT ABOUT YOU, MASHIBA-KUN?
BUT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, I'M NOT THE TARGET OF HER INTEREST, SO I DON'T REALLY CARE.

YOU'RE GOING TO THE BRIDGE TODAY, AREN'T YOU, YA-SHO?
I'M GOING TOO. YOU READY?
SO IT'S TUESDAY ALREADY, HUH? I'LL ASK HER ABOUT THOSE...
YOU STAY HERE!
WHAT'S UP? I WANNA GO TOO!
YEAH, SURE.
IS SOMETHING GOING ON THERE?
I NEED TO MAKE A LITTLE DEAL WITH YUZURU.
SHE KIND OF RAN OFF TOO SOON FOR ME TO ASK ANYTHING LAST TIME.
I COULDN'T SEE HER FACE, SO IT'S HARD TO SAY FOR SURE...
SHE WAS PROBABLY... RUNNING FROM ME, HUH?

YOU WANT TO USE MY CAMERA?
FOR A MOVIE?
YEAH, THAT'S OKAY.
OHHH!
THANKS, I OWE YOU ONE!
ON ONE CONDI-TION!!

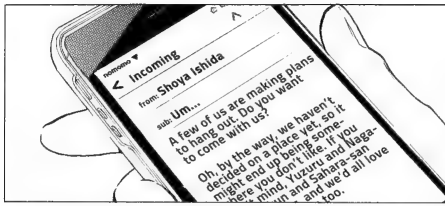
TAKE ME!! SOME-WHERE!! FUN!!

SURE, THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
HEY, THAT SOUNDS FUN. CAN I COME TOO?
WOO-HOO!
THAT'S FINE WITH ME!
HEH, YOU'RE SUCH A KID.

FOUR, EH? FINE WITH ME.
YEP!
YOU'RE GOING TO INVITE SHO-CHAN TOO, AREN'T YOU, YUZURU-CHAN?
FINE WITH ME!
UM, CAN I COME TOO?
THEN, I'M COMING TOO!
HEY.
I'M SAHARA. NICE TO MEET YOU.
DON'T YOU FOLLOW US!!
HEY, THE MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T YOU INVITE SOME MORE OF YOUR FRIENDS, ISHIDA?
OH, THAT'S ENOUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?

BY THE WAY, YUZURU...
WHERE'S NISHIMIYA TODAY?
SHE SAID HER STOMACH HURT AND WENT HOME.
HUH?! AGAIN?!
YOU THINK MAYBE SHE'S... AVOIDING ME?
WHY WOULD SHE AVOID YOU?
ACTUALLY, THE OTHER DAY, SHE RAN OFF ON ME.
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS TRYING SO HARD TO TELL ME...
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED HER TO REPEAT IT SO MANY TIMES...

"MOON"...
I COULDN'T UNDER-STAND THAT ONE SIMPLE WORD...
PFFT
I GUESS THAT WOULD MAKE HER FEEL BAD.
AND A LOT HAPPENED BEFORE THAT TOO.
IF IT'S BUGGING YOU SO BAD WHY DON'T YOU INVITE HER?
SHE'LL SAY NO IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE AROUND YOU, RIGHT?
Y... YEAH.


nomono
Incoming
from: Shoya Ishida
sub: Um...
A few of us are making plans to hang out. Do you want to come with us?
Oh, by the way, we haven't decided on a place yet, so it might end up being somewhere you don't like. If you don't mind, Yuzuru and Nagahara-san and Sahara-san and we'd all love it too.

...

...
KICK KICK KICK

OH, HE'S HERE, SIS.
OH... MORN-ING.
BOW
OH, HER HAIR'S BACK TO NORMAL...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING!
THE OTHERS AREN'T HERE YET?
NOPE.
HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE GON-NA COME TODAY?
BEATS ME.

FWISH
UENO-SAN CAME TOO. A SUNDAY OF CHAOS IN WHICH PAST AND FUTURE PAIN MIX!!

FWISH
CLEAR SKIES! THE PERFECT WEATHER FOR A DAY OUT! BUT THERE'S A STORM A BREWING!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING!
A SILENT VOICE

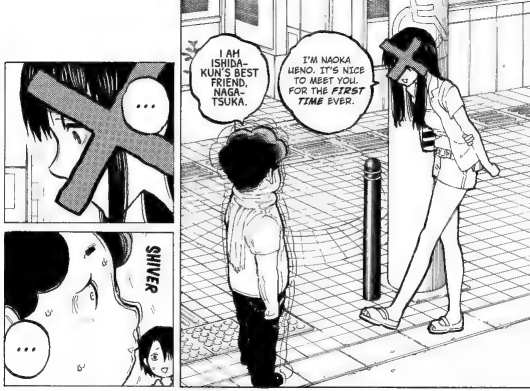
WH...
S'UP!
UENO!

?!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T NISHI-MIYA-SAN!
OH!
?
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?!
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

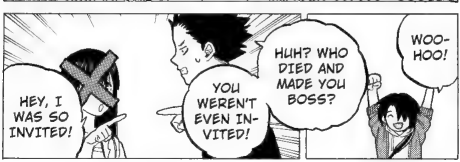
CHAPTER 25: JUST MY IMAGINATION

"THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

I'M YUZURU NISHI-MIYA.
SHOKO'S SISTER.
HUH? ISN'T THIS THAT KID WHO LIVES NEAR YOU?
OH, THIS IS--
SO YOU TWO EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER'S FAMILIES.
WOW, YOU'RE A CUTIE, AREN'T YOU?
TH... THANKS.
SIS-TER?!
ISHIDA-KUN...
WHO IS SHE?
SHE'S THE UENO GIRL I MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY...
I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE CAME THOUGH...
HELLO!


I'M NAOKA UENO. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER.
I AM ISHIDA-KUN'S BEST FRIEND, NAGATSUKA.
...
SHIVER
...

ISHIDA!
JUST SIT BACK AND LET ME BE THE GUIDE FOR TODAY!
WE'RE GOING TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK!


WOO-HOO!
HUH? WHO DIED AND MADE YOU BOSS?
YOU WEREN'T EVEN INVITED!
HEY, I WAS SO INVITED!

KAWAI-SAN?!
BY KAWAI-CCHI!
TI
CK
WHY IS KAWAI IN CHARGE?
WHY DON'T WE GET GOING?
THANKS FOR COMING TODAY, EVERYONE.

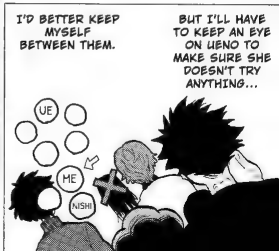
...

WOW, JUST LOOK AT THIS GROUP...
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS AWKWARD?
KLUNK
WE BARELY KNOW EACH OTHER...ISN'T THIS MORE LIKE THAT "PRETEND FRIENDS" THING UENO WAS TALKING ABOUT?

!
COME TO THINK OF IT, UENO USED TO BADMOUTH SAHARA TOO...

PACE
PACE

NISHIMIYA SEEMS TO BE ACTING LIKE ALWAYS...


I'D BETTER KEEP MYSELF BETWEEN THEM.
BUT I'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON UENO TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T TRY ANYTHING...
UE
ME
NISHI

HUH?
I'M EM-BARRASSED TO BE SEEN WITH YOU.
!
I SEE YOU'RE STILL DRESSING AS UGLY AS EVER, HUH, SAHARA?
JEEZ...
AND AREN'T HER CLOTHES UGLY?
NAO-CHAN, THAT'S NOT NICE.
HEY, UENO...
UH-OH, THIS COULD BE TROUBLE.
"NAO-CHAN?"
HUH? BUT THESE ARE THE COLORS YOU TOLD ME TO WEAR, NAO-CHAN.

HUH?
DON'T TELL ME... ARE YOU TWO...

FRIENDS?
HUUUH?
IT'S NOT THE COLORS THAT ARE THE PROBLEM, STUPID. IT'S THE DESIGN!

BUT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, DON'T THEY GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL? IS THAT WHY? WAIT...BUT...
ISN'T IT DUE TUESDAY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN'S THE DEADLINE FOR THAT HOMEWORK?
YIKES, THEN I'M IN TROUBLE
...

I HEARD MIYOSHI-SAN'S TAKING THAT EXAM.
KLANK
I HEARD ONLY 30% OF THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE IT PASS.
KLUNK
WOW...
BWAHAHA HAHA!
KLUNK
KLANK
HMM...
YOU REALLY CAN'T HEAR?! LIKE, FOR REAL?!
YES, SO WHEN YOU TALK TO NISHIMIYA-SAN, YOU NEED TO TALK EXTRA LOUD, OKAY?
OKAY!
WOW, I'VE NEVER MET A DEAF PERSON BEFORE.

KAWAI'S TALKING... LIKE IT WAS ALL GOOD MEMORIES...
IT WAS A VERY NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME.
AND I USED TO TEACH HER ALL SORTS OF THINGS EVERY DAY.
I USED TO SIT IN THE DESK IN FRONT OF HER!
ACTUALLY, BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
...
MAN, IT'S HARD TO TALK TO NISHIMIYA WITH HER HERE...
...AM I JUST TWISTED?
LET'S RIDE THAT FIRST, EVERY-ONE!
TRY TO KEEP UP SO YOU DON'T GET SEPARATED FROM THE GROUP!

...
130

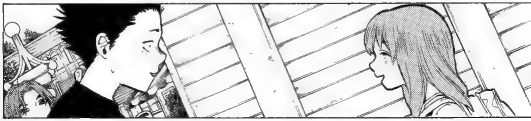
EL NEW ME-
Miyoko Sahara
bject: It's me, Ishida
So you and Ueno are
friends now, hun?
I thought it'd be awkward
for you to be around her,
so I was a little sur
Sorry if I was wron
hat's all. It just
gged me a lit
TAP
TAP
...

I HOPE THIS SEAT'S NOT TAKEN.
CHUNK
CHUNK

THEN... ARE YOU OKAY RIDING IT NOW?
I USED TO BE TOO SCARED TO RIDE THIS ONE.
I FIGURE I'LL WAIT UNTIL AFTER I RIDE IT TO DECIDE WHETHER IT'S SCARY.
I MEAN, IT'S BEEN 5 YEARS SINCE THEN.
ZOOM
PSHHHHHHHHHHHHH
WE'VE GOT THE SAME HAIR NOW...
THAT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?

NEXT UP IS THE HAUNTED HOUSE!
OH, WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE!
LET'S GO, EVERY-ONE!
WHOA!
I'M COMING! I'M COM-ING!
TEE HEE
HER LEGS ARE SHAKING.
HAHA...
...
AH! YOU LAUGHED AT HER! HOW MEAN!
WH-WHAP
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?!

NOD



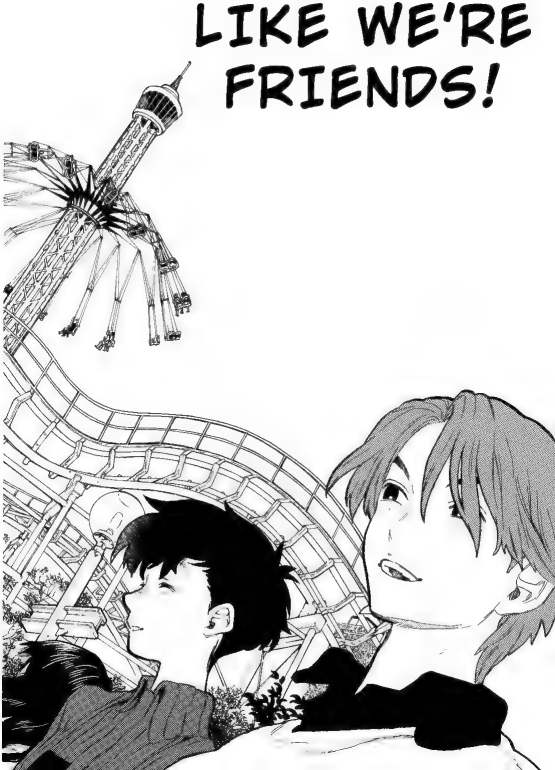
FOLLOW ME, EVERY-ONE!
IS IT OKAY... FOR ME TO HAVE THIS MUCH FUN?

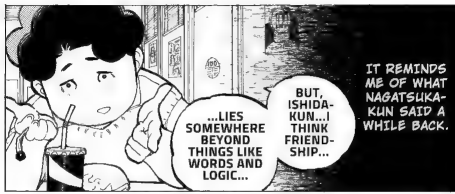
WOOOW!
WHAP
I SAW THAT! SO YOU REALLY CAN SPEAK SIGN LAN-GUAGE! THAT'S AWESOME!
I REALLY RESPECT THAT, MAN! YOU SHOULD TEACH ME SOMETIME!
IT MUST'VE BEEN REALLY HARD TO LEARN! YOU'RE INCREDIBLE, ISHIDA-KUN!

HUH?
THAT MAKES ME KIND OF HAPPY!

HUH?
"FUN"?

I'M... HAVING FUN?
I MEAN, THIS IS AN AMUSEMENT PARK, AFTER ALL...
WELL, IT'S ONLY NATURAL, I GUESS.
BUT ISN'T THIS LIKE...
I MEAN, DOESN'T THIS FEEL LIKE...
YOU KNOW...
LIKE WE'RE...


LIKE WE'RE
FRIENDS!


IT REMINDS ME OF WHAT NAGATSUKA-KUN SAID A WHILE BACK.
BUT, ISHIDA-KUN...I THINK FRIEND-SHIP...
...LIES SOMEWHERE BEYOND THINGS LIKE WORDS AND LOGIC...

IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT BY THAT, NAGATSUKA-KUN?
OH, I'M HUNGRY!
LET'S EAT SOME TAKOYAKI, ISHIDA!

BEING "FRIENDS" IS SOME-THING YOU FEEL.
OH, THEN I'LL GO BUY SOME!
NOT SOME-THING YOU PONDER OVER IN-SIDE YOUR HEAD.
THANKS!

I THINK I JUST FIGURED OUT WHAT UENO MEANT BY...
"PRETEND FRIENDS" TOO!
STOP ALL THIS BROOD-ING.

BUT NOW, SPENDING THIS TIME WITH MY LIFE ON MAX BLEW ALL THAT AWAY.
YEAH, I'VE BEEN TOO HUNG UP ON THE WORD "FRIEND."
AND THAT'S DONE NOTHING BUT MAKE ME WORRIED AND PARANOID.
BUT THAT'S FINE.
SURE, MAYBE THERE ARE SOME WEIRDOS IN THERE AND SOME PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW VERY WELL...
ALL OF THAT, THE GOOD AND THE BAD, IS WHAT MAKES "FRIENDS."
THANK YOU!
I MEAN, THEY'RE ALL SMILING, AND SO AM I.
WAFT WAFT

HEH

JUST WHEN HE STARTED TO SEE A FUTURE FOR HIMSELF, HIS GREATEST TRAUMA APPEARS. WHAT IS SHIMADA, WHO MADE ISHIDA THE TARGET OF THE BULLYING, DOING HERE?

A SILENT VOICE

CHAPTER 26: BIRDS OF A FEATHER

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

HEM
Curried Meat

…

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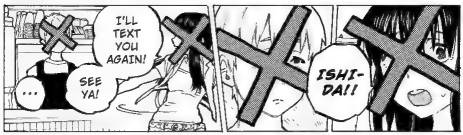
OH...
HEY?
SHK
SHK

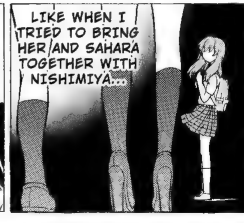

I'LL TEXT YOU AGAIN!
...
SEE YA!
ISHI-DA!!

...NOT REALLY.
SHK
A-ARE YOU MAD?
SHK
SHK
SHK

SHE'S TRYING TO DO THE SAME THING AS ME!!

I DIDN'T SET THIS UP TO MAKE YOU ANGRY, OKAY? I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU TWO COULD GET ALONG LIKE YOU USED TO...

I...I'M NOT MAD, OKAY?


LIKE WHEN I TRIED TO BRING HER AND SAHARA TOGETHER WITH NISHIMIYA...

WEL-COME BACK!
OVER HERE!

SAHARA-SAN SAID SHE WOULD HELP US MAKE THE COSTUMES.
AM I... FREAKING OUT?

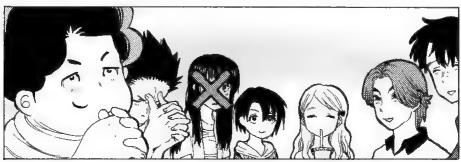
PLUS, HE WAS LAUGHING A LITTLE. DON'T TELL ME HE SAW ME SMILING FROM BAR TO BAR?!
HMM. SCI-FI MAYBE?
HAVE YOU CHOSEN WHAT KIND OF STORY YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
I'D RATHER DO FANTASY.
HEH
FAIR-IES!
FAIR-IES!
OH, WHO CARES ABOUT THAT JERK ANYWAY?

BOY, THAT TOTALLY JUST RAINED ON MY PARADE...
WE WERE JUST DIS-CUSSING THE MOVIE.

IT'S SIMPLE AND MOVING!
UWAH!
KRAKK
WHAT? HOW SCARY!
ONE WHERE THE HERO KILLS THE CRAP OUT OF THE GUYS WHO BULLIED HIM!
I WANNA DO A REVENGE DRAMA.
WHAT DOES THE HERO DO AFTER THAT?
I WANT A LONGER STORY.
OH? WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

HE WANTS TO DIE...

I THINK I CAN WORK WITH THAT!
SNAP
HEY, THAT'S GOOD!

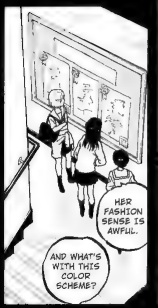


EEK! EEK!

WOULD YOU MIND CUTTING THAT CRAP OUT? IT'S CREEPY.
EEK! EEK!
EEK!
DID YOU SERIOUSLY SAY "HE WANTS TO DIE"?
LEAVE ME ALONE...
YOU WISH!
WHEN DID YOU TURN INTO SUCH A WIMP, ISHIDA?
SIGH
SHUDDER
...

YOU AND ME ARE A LOT ALIKE, HUH?
NO, WE'RE NOT.
WELL, WE'RE NOT.
I JUST KIND OF THOUGHT THAT, IS ALL.
IF ONLY NISHIMIYA-SAN HADN'T SHOWN UP, WE ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY.

IT'S HER FAULT YOUR LIFE WAS RUINED.
WELL, IF YOU TRACE IT BACK TO THE SOURCE, ISN'T IT NISHIMIYA-SAN'S FAULT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH THIS RIGHT NOW?
...HUH?
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED AND YOU KNOW IT!
DON'T JUST ASSUME MY LIFE IS RUINED!!
YOU HAD A FALLING OUT WITH HIROSE AND SHIMADA.
IT WAS RUINED.
I STOPPED HANGING OUT WITH THEM BECAUSE I WANTED TO!
I MADE FRIENDS WITH SAHARA.



"THEME: "WAVES" / "GOLD: NAOKA UENO" / "SILVER: MIYOKO SAHARA"

I WON THE SILVER BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS ASPIRED TO BE LIKE UENO-SAN.
D-DON'T TALK LIKE THAT, OKAY, GIRLS?
BUT, SENPAI!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR HOW SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT YOUR WORK?

LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER TODAY.
OKAY...
SO...
WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO SHIMADA?
EEK!
EEK!
MAYBE SOMETHING WOULD CHANGE.
EEK!
I UNDERSTOOD HER AND REGRETTED WHAT I DID, AND NOW WE'RE FRIENDS.
AND I LEARNED THAT SAHARA WAS STILL THE SAME AIRHEAD SHE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
AFTER THAT, WE TALKED ON THE TRAIN...

INTO BEING FRIENDS WITH THEM...
THEN DON'T FORCE ME INTO THIS...
I MEAN... YOU STILL HATE NISHIMIYA, DON'T YOU?
BUT THAT'S JUST ONE CASE, RIGHT?
B-
...BUT I MADE UP WITH NISHIMIYA-SAN THIS MORNING.
Y-YOU MEAN THAT HALF-ASSED APOLOGY?!
I WANTED YOU TO SIT DOWN AND REALLY TALK WITH HER...
AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER, THEN--
...!
DO I HAVE ANY ROOM TO TALK?!

!
AND IF WE... CAN BE FRIENDS...
KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH
YOU'LL BE FRIENDS WITH SHIMADA AND EVERY-ONE AGAIN, RIGHT?
OKAY, FINE!!
THEN!
I'M GONNA GO HAVE A REAL TALK WITH NISHI-MIYA-SAN!
KNITTING

AND ME TOO.

HUH?
WHA? HEY!!
TEP TEP TEP
したた！
TURN
OH?
たたた
TEP TEP TEP
UH-OH!
ARE YOU OKAY, NISHI-MIYA-SAN?
WOBBLE
HOLL!

GRAB

COME RIDE THE FERRIS WHEEL WITH ME.

NISHI-MIYA-SAN!!

IT'LL BE OKAY, ISHIDA!
I'LL DO THIS RIGHT.
U... UENO...
OH, SIS! SIS!
IF YOU'RE GOING ON THAT, TAKE THIS WITH YOU!
I'M GONNA RIDE THE JET COASTER AGAIN!
LET'S GO.
...

...

WE'RE BA-CK.

...!
FWOOF

DID UENO'S DETERMINATION...
HEAL OLD WOUNDS...
OR GIVE BIRTH TO NEW ONES?
NEXT ISSUE:
"SPECTATORS"

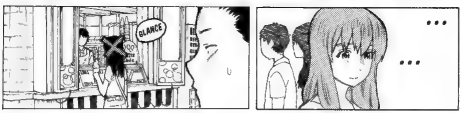
A SILENT VOICE

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

CHAPTER 27: HATE

WANT A BITE?
OH, ICE CREAM? I THINK I'LL HAVE SOME TOO.
UENO!! DID SOME-THING HAPPEN UP THERE?
GO BUY SOME, SILLY.

SHOULD I ASK NISHI-MIYA?
THANKS, SIS.


GLANCE
...
...

HMM?
UENO...
HEY, UH...

HOW'D IT GO WITH... NISHI-MIYA?
DID YOU TWO TALK IT OUT?

IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.

O-OH, REAL-LY?

BUT AFTER TALKING TO HER, IT SEEMS LIKE WE MIGHT GET ALONG JUST FINE, YOU COULD SAY?

LIKE, I FEEL A CONNECTION BECAUSE WE BOTH HATE THE SAME THING?

NO, WAIT.

NISHI-MIYA'S CHEEK WAS RED...

YOU DID SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU?

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

I KNEW IT! SO YOU DID SLAP HER?!
YEP.

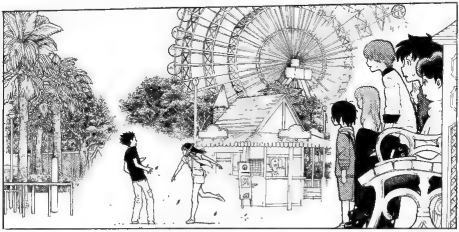
I-IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY SHE GOT SLAPPED...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK HER?

DON'T GIVE ME "YEP"!! YOU SAID YOU'D MAKE FRIENDS WITH HER!
AND I TOLD YOU IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.

WELL, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SLAP HER, DID YOU?!
IF IT BOTHERS YOU SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER?

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
AHHH! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RESORTED TO VIOLENCE!
YES!! IT!! DOES!!

WHY DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU?!
SPLAT



ZLICH

UH...

HOLLYW OD

...

OH WELL. SHALL WE HEAD HOME THEN?
...
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S IT FOR TODAY, HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
N... NAO-CHAN?!!!

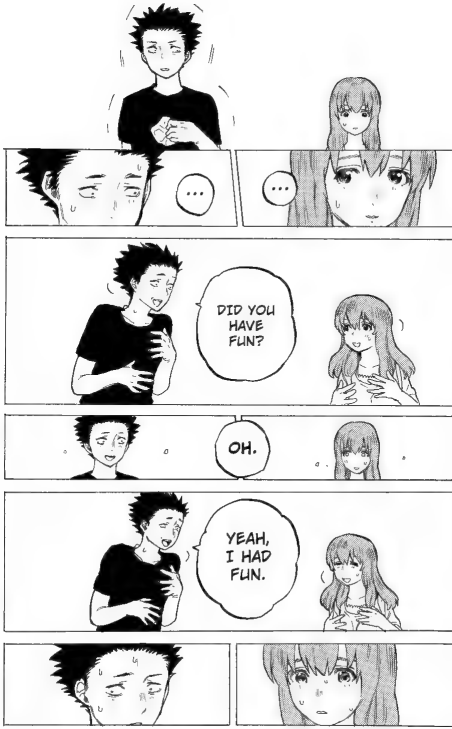
I'M GOING HOME!

PAT
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, ISHIDA-KUN!

JEEZ! WE WERE KIND ENOUGH TO BRING YOU ALONG, SO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, OKAY?!

BE CAREFUL AROUND HER, YA-SHO!

HERE YOU GO.

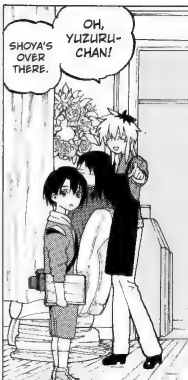

...
...
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
OH.
YEAH, I HAD FUN.

...
HURRY UP OR WE'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
SHUTTLE
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?

カラン
KLANG
カラン
KLANG

UM...
CAN WE GO... TO YOUR ROOM?

OH? WHAT IS IT?


OH, YUZURU-CHAN!
SHOYA'S OVER THERE.

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING? HMM? WHAT IS IT?
HELP YOURSELVES TO THE STEAMED BUNS IN THE FRIDGE.

WHY MY ROOM?
I HAVE OBTAINED SOME TOP-SECRET FOOTAGE.

SNAP
WHAT IS THIS FOOTAGE OF?
YOU WAIT OUTSIDE, MARIA.

THE INSIDE OF THE FERRIS WHEEL.

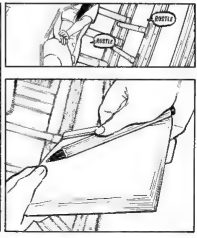
DON'T TELL ME THAT CAMERA WAS RUN-NING?!
YEP.
AND I HAVEN'T WATCHED IT YET EITHER.

...
UPSY-DAISY.

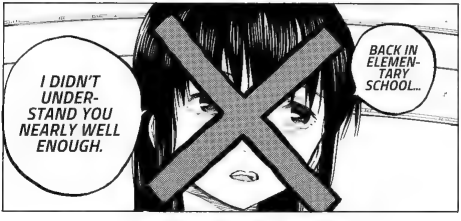
LIS-
TEN...
...
...
SIGH
I HATE
YOU.

...
...

LET'S NOT USE THAT, OKAY?
IT DOESN'T GET YOUR FEELINGS ACROSS.
I'LL TALK SLOW SO YOU CAN UNDER-STAND...
AND I'LL LISTEN TO YOU CAREFULLY.


RUSTLE
RUSTLE

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...

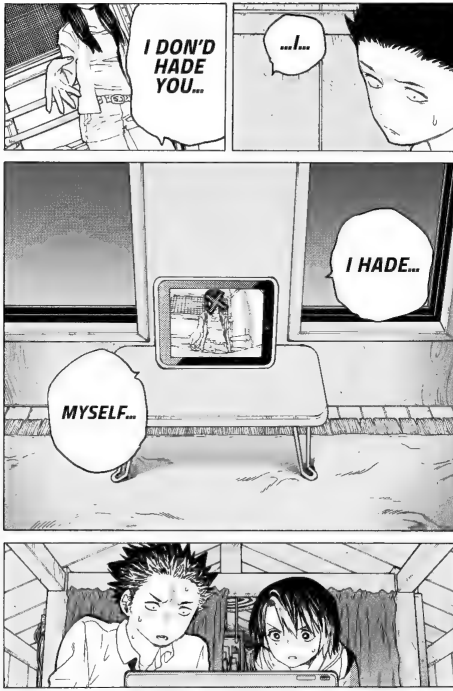

I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND YOU NEARLY WELL ENOUGH.
BACK IN ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL...

I THINK THAT'S WHAT MADE ME HATE YOU.
BUT YOU DIDN'T UNDER-STAND ME EITHER.
THAT'S WHY YOU BOM-BARDED ME WITH YOUR WEIRD NOTES...
AND INSTEAD OF GETTING A CLUE, YOU RUIN-ED THE CHORUS COMPETITION FOR EVERYONE.
AS A RESULT, I ATTACKED YOU.
I WROTE INSULTS IN YOUR NOTE-BOOK AND TALKED ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK.
BUT THOSE WERE MESSAGES.
"STOP IT." "LEAVE US ALONE."

AND YOU GOT ME BACK.
USING THE ADULTS.
AS A RESULT, ISHIDA LOST HIS FRIENDS.
AND I WAS HURT PRETTY BADLY AS WELL.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT MAKES US EVEN?
ACTUALLY, ISHIDA JUST TOLD ME TO APOLOGIZE "FOR REAL."
BUT IT'S NOT FAIR FOR JUST ME TO APOLOGIZE, RIGHT?

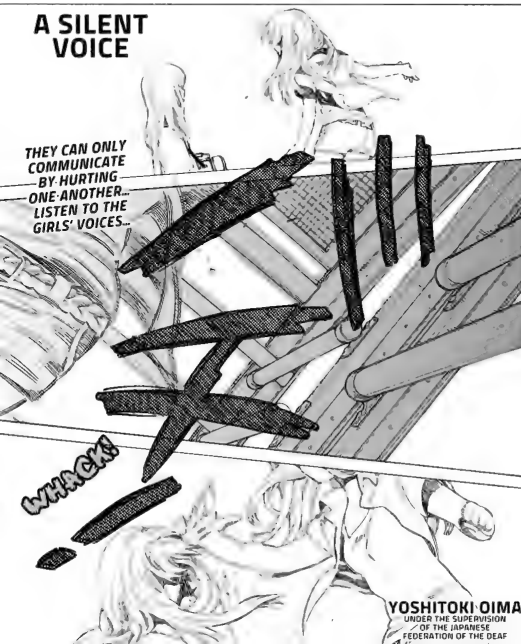
...I'B SORRY...
IN FACT, I DON'T EVEN WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE.
THAT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM MY APOLOGY THIS MORNING.
WHAT, YOU THINK YOU CAN REALLY APOLOGIZE WITHOUT UNDER-STANDING WHY?
AND IF WE APOLOGIZED FOR IT, IT'D BE LIKE WE WERE REJECTING OUR PAST SELVES.
WE WERE BOTH DES-PERATE BACK THEN, SO I DON'T THINK WE DID ANY-THING WRONG.
I...
DON'T THINK THE FEELINGS I HAD TOWARDS YOU BACK THEN WERE WRONG.

BUT THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW.
I HATE YOU, AND YOU HATE ME.
BUT EVEN IF WE HATE EACH OTHER, I THINK WE CAN COEXIST PEACE-FULLY.
SO LET'S SHAKE ON IT.


I DON'D HADE YOU...
...I...
I HADE...
MYSELF...

WHACK!!
!!
SO WHAT?
...
...
THEY CLASHED, BARED ALL, AND HURT ONE ANOTHER. WHAT CAN SHOYA DO NOW?

I HATE MYSELF.


A SILENT VOICE
THEY CAN ONLY COMMUNICATE BY HURTING ONE ANOTHER... LISTEN TO THE GIRLS' VOICES...
WHACK!
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

SO WHAT?

CHAPTER 28: REPLY

LOOK...

I'M POURING MY HEART OUT OVER HERE...

BEING AS OPENLY HOSTILE AS I CAN...

SO DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

THIS IS HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?

ANYTIME SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING HARSH TO YOU, YOU SAY "I'M SORRY" AND RUN AWAY.

YEAH, I KNEW THAT ALREADY. IT'S EASIER THAT WAY, HUH?

JUST ACCEPTING IT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

BUT THAT PISSES ME OFF!

NISHIMIYA-SAN, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE FORCING YOURSELF...

WHEN YOU SAY "THANK YOU"...

AND "SORRY."

NOW I'M SURE OF IT.

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

JUST LIKE FIVE YEARS AGO...
YOU HAVE NO INTEN-TION OF TALKING TO ME!!
WHOOM
WHOOM
KLAK
KLAK

I LEFT THE CAMERA RUNNING TO FIND OUT WHETHER I NEEDED TO KICK THIS CHICK'S BUTT...
...
...
WELL...
OH.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
NOPE, SAME AS ALWAYS.
UM...WHAT ABOUT NISHIMIYA? DID SHE, LIKE, SAY ANYTHING AT HOME?
NOT THAT I REALLY KNOW...
I-I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO KICK HER BUTT...

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY UENO-SAN GOT IRRITATED.
SIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE TYPE WHO WON'T TELL YOU EVEN IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HER.
BUT A WHILE BACK...
THERE WAS ONE TIME SHE DID TALK TO ME A LITTLE...
THAT DAY, I'M SURE SHE WAS AT HER BREAKING POINT TOO.
YOU'RE SOAKING WET!
WHAT HAPPENED, SIS?

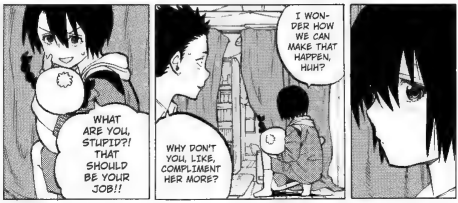
...YU-ZURU?

WHAT'S WRONG?
HOW FAR BACK WAS THIS? WHAT DID SHE SAY?
OH... YEAH...
HAHA...

...
SORRY... I CAN'T TELL YOU.
O-OH, WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
THEN YOU'RE JUST LIKE HER, AREN'T YOU?

NISHIMIYA SAID SHE HATES HERSELF...
...
I HATE MYSELF TOO, SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH ROOM TO TALK, BUT...

I WANT HER TO...
LIKE HERSELF.


WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?! THAT SHOULD BE YOUR JOB!!
WHY DON'T YOU, LIKE, COMPLIMENT HER MORE?
I WONDER HOW WE CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN, HUH?

ME COM-
PLIMENTING
HER ISN'T
GONNA HELP
ANYTHING.
I DON'T
KNOW ANY-
THING ABOUT
NISHIMIYA.
WOULDN'T,
LIKE, SAHARA
BE A BETTER
CHOICE?

MY
JOB?
YEAH,
YOURS...
MY
JOB,
HUH?

NO, YOU
DO IT! I
DON'T CARE
WHAT IT IS,
JUST COM-
PLIMENT HER
ON SOME-
THING!
I'M TELL-
IN' YA, IT'LL
BE A PIECE
OF CAKE!
...Y-
YEAH!

THEN I'LL
SEE YOU TO-
MORROW!
I'LL
GIVE IT A
SHOT...
HMM...
OKAY.

...HMM...
...

MORE THAN I DID...

SHE MIGHT STILL BE...

SHRPP

YO...
HEY THERE.
TOSU

YO...
NISHI-MIYA...
BOW

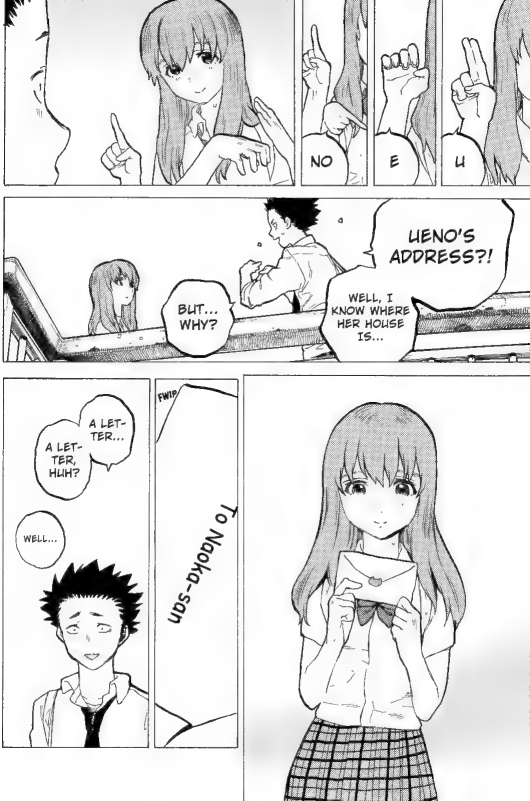
I NEED TO MEET NISHIMIYA HEAD-ON TOO...

BOY, YOU'RE LOOKING, LIKE...
REALLY CUTE TODAY.
...
OH, BUT OBVIOUSLY I THINK YOU LOOK GREAT TODAY TOO.
WHICH REMINDS ME, YOU LOOKED NICE IN THAT PONYTAIL THE OTHER DAY.
...?

YOUR HAIR'S REALLY SILKY, ISN'T IT?
AND I LIKE THE LOOK OF THOSE SOCKS TOO!
...?
PLUS, THIS IS SOME GREAT BREAD!

I SUPPOSE WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
THAT YOU ARE A WONDER-FUL HUMAN BEING!!
I KNOW LIFE CAN BE TOUGH SOME-TIMES...
...?!
BUT I'M HERE TO SUPPORT YOU, SO IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING, I'M YOUR MAN!!
...!
...?!
...

I WONDER WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ISHIDA-KUN TODAY...
BOW!
JUST LEAVE HIM BE.
EEK! EEK!
?! SO THAT DID LOOK WEIRD?
HMM?
...
YOU WANT TO ASK ME SOMETHING? SURE, ASK AWAY!!


NO
E
U
UENO'S ADDRESS?!
WELL, I KNOW WHERE HER HOUSE IS...
BUT... WHY?
FWIP
TO NAOKO-SAN
A LET-TER...
A LET-TER, HUH?
WELL...

WHY A LETTER?
WHAT DID YOU WRITE?
ARE YOU SURE THAT WON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE?
WHACK
A SECRET?
ISHIDA-KUN.
...
HMM...
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
I THINK NAO-CHAN'S PROBABLY STILL AT SCHOOL...
BUT WE CAN AT LEAST DROP IT OFF.
LET'S GO DELIVER IT NOW!

I DECIDED TO TRUST SAHARA'S SMILE.
I THINK THAT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.
ALL RIGHT, WHY DON'T WE HEAD HOME?
...

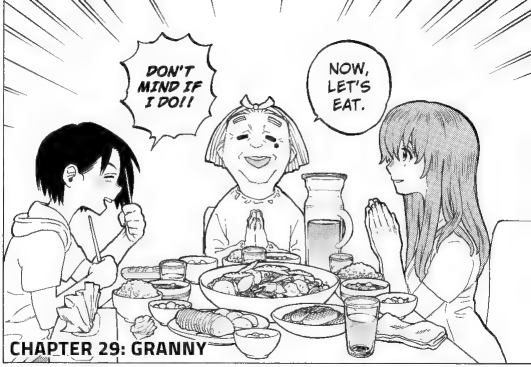
I THINK NISHIMIYA PROBABLY... RESPONDED TO WHAT UENO SAID BACK ON THE FERRIS WHEEL.
BUT...
OR WHAT NISHIMIYA WAS THINKING.
IN THE END, I NEVER FOUND OUT WHAT THAT LETTER SAID.
ISHIDA.
I THINK THEY'LL BE JUST FINE.
SIS IS CHANGING LITTLE BY LITTLE IN WAYS UENO-SAN DOESN'T KNOW.
YOU CAN TELL?

OH, I SEE
YEAH, I CAN TELL
BECAUSE WE'RE SISTERS!
TRANSCENDING THE PAIN, SOMETHING HAS DEFINITELY BEEN BORN WITHIN ME. THE NISHIMIYA FAMILY

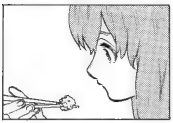
A SILENT VOICE

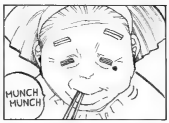
WELCOME HOME.
OH, YOUR MOTHER ISN'T WITH YOU?
SHE SAID SHE WAS GONNA RUN BY THE SUPER MARKET.
WHAT'S FOR DINNER TONIGHT, GRANNY?
MEAT AND POTATO STEW.
BUT I'M HUNGRY. SHOULD WE EAT WITHOUT HER?
PLOP

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF



CHAPTER 29: GRANNY





THERE WAS A MOSQUITO ON THIS TURDHEAD NAGATSUKA'S ARM...
...AND THAT'S ITS CORPSE.
WHAT'S THIS?
ANY OTHERS?
NOPE, THAT'S ALL!
YOU DIDN'T TAKE A PHOTO WITH EVERYONE TO REMEMBER YOUR TRIP BY?
NOPE.
HEHEH. GROSS, AIN'T IT?
THUNK
YOU DON'T SEE ITS GREATNESS? YOU'RE SO PROPER, SIS!
HAHAHA
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WELL, YOU JUST PHOTOGRAPH WHAT YOU LIKE.

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

WEL-
COME
HOME.

KREEK
PLOP

MOTHER...
THIS
WON'T
DO...
THE FLAV-
OR IS TOO
STRONG.

WH-WHAP
I'LL EAT ANYTHING.
WHAP
IS IT TOO STRONG? IT'S BETTER LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
WH-WHAP
WH-WHAP
DON'T USE SIGN LANGUAGE AT THE TABLE.
IT'S UN-SEEMLY.
IT IS NOT UN-SEEMLY.
IT'S BAD MANNERS.

I RAN INTO TAKIMOTO-KUN'S MOTHER TODAY.
SHE SAID, "I HEAR YUZURU-SAN ISN'T COMING TO SCHOOL. IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?"
YUZU-RU...
IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO GO TO SCHOOL, THEN I'M GOING TO BURN ALL THESE BIZARRE PHOTOGRAPHS.
SO? I'LL JUST TAKE MORE.
I'LL THROW AWAY YOUR CAMERA. YOU ONLY PHOTO-GRAPH RUBBISH ANYWAY.
IT'S NOT RUB-BISH!
IT IS RUBBISH!
HEY, DON'T ARGUE WHILE WE'RE EATING.
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR BUYING HER THAT, MOTHER.
KLINK

...
SHHH
KLINK KLINK

02:03

ELIR

ELIR
ELIR
ELIR
ELIR

KLIK
KLIK
...
YUZU.
YOU'RE GONNA RUIN YOUR EYES READING IN THE DARK.

WANT SOME SHISO* JUICE?
SURE.
SNAP
*AN ASIAN HERB IN THE MINT FAMILY

GRANNY COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER.
KLUNK

...

DO YOU STILL WANT TO BEAT UP THOSE KIDS WHO BULLIED YOUR SISTER?
YUZU...
...

I STILL WISH SOMETHING BAD WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM...
...BUT I ONLY *THINK* ABOUT IT NOW. I'D NEVER GET 'EM ALL ANYWAY...

THEN WHY WERE YOU READING HER OLD NOTEBOOK?
I JUST WANT TO KNOW.

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE SIS WAS AROUND... WHAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS LIKE...
I JUST WANT TO KNOW THAT...
BECAUSE ONE DAY, I MIGHT REGRET NOT KNOWING...

...
CHK
HAVE SOME STEAMED BUNS.
...
GRANNY'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO, YUZU.
YOU'RE SO FOCUSED ON YOUR SISTER YOU DON'T EVEN TRY TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF.
YOU'RE NOT ANY DIFFERENT, GRANNY.
YOU'RE ALWAYS COMING TO THE SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB INSTEAD OF THE SENIOR CENTER.
YOU'RE GONNA LOSE ALL YOUR FRIENDS.
I'M DOING IT FOR MYSELF, SO THAT DOESN'T COUNT.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GONNA PLAY IT, I'M DOING THIS FOR MYSELF TOO.
OH, MORE IMPORTANTLY...
HAVE YOU NOTICED, GRANNY?

SIS HAS REALLY CHANGED LATELY!
TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, SHE'S BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE CHEERFUL SINCE APRIL...
AND NOW SHE'S ACTING LIKE A TOTAL WEIRDO! IT'S GREAT!
SHE USED TO JUST SIT AROUND THE HOUSE READING ALL DAY...
BUT NOW SHE'S ALWAYS GRINNING AND HAS A BOUNCE IN HER STEP! SHE MIGHT MOPE A LITTLE, BUT THEN SHE TOTALLY CHEERS UP...AND THE RAPID-FIRE BARRAGES OF WEIRD FACES SHE MAKES ARE TOTALLY HILARIOUS!
OH, REALLY?
SO SHOKO'S CHANGED, HAS SHE?
YOU'VE CHANG-ED TOO, YUZU.

YEP.
YOU'VE HAD A LITTLE BOUNCE IN YOUR STEP LATELY TOO.
HUH? ME?
YOU THINK SO?
BUT MOM STILL YELLS AT ME ALL THE TIME...
IT'S "UNSEEMLY" THIS AND "RUBBISH" THAT...
I STILL CAN'T PLEASE HER. I HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
THAT'S JUST FINE, YUZU.
EVEN IF YOUR MOTHER DOES COMPLAIN...
YOU AND SHOKO SHOULD BOTH DECIDE WHAT TO DO FOR YOURSELVES.
GRANNY LOVES YOU LIKE THAT.
I'VE GOT SOME MIGHTY FINE GRANDCHILDREN.

04:30
CHANGED?
ME?
THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOME-ONE
IT MUST BE BE-CAUSE SHOKO CHANGED
OH, I GET IT.
UNLIKE MOM, SHE HAS FUN WITH ME...
UNLIKE MOM, GRANNY COM-PLIMENTS ME...
UNLIKE MOM, GRANNY LIS-TENS TO ME...
I LOVE GRANNY...

SEE YA!
YEAH!
TUESDAY
I WONDER IF NISHIMIYA'S THERE...
TO THE BRIDGE.
TO THE BRIDGE.
ZO
OOOOOOOO
SKREEE
ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!
OH... THOSE?
HOW TO USE THEM...
SKREEE
OOOM
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING I MEANT TO ASK NISHIMIYA...
OOO
WHAT'LL I TALK ABOUT TODAY...
OH... WHAT WAS IT...

NISHI-MIYA ISN'T HERE?
NOPE.
HUH?
HEY THERE.
NOPE.
SHE SAID THEY HAD SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF TODAY. THEY SEND YOU THEIR REGARDS.
NO YU-ZURU EITHER?
"SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF." HUH? I WONDER WHAT CAME UP...
OH, I SEE...
CHOMP CHOMP

LIKE, ABOUT THAT LETTER?
OH...
HAS SHE, UH, SAID ANYTHING ABOUT NISHIMIYA?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW'S UENO BEEN LATELY?
NOT A SINGLE WORD.
THAT'S JUST HOW SHE IS.
AND EVEN IF SHE DID, I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD TELL ME.
I SEE...
...
WHO KNOWS?
NOTHING? YOU THINK SHE EVEN READ IT?
sniff sniff

OH COME ON, DON'T GET SO DEPRESSED JUST BECAUSE NISHIMIYA-SAN ISN'T HERE!
WHAT?! TH-THIS IS HOW I ALWAYS ACT!!
A LOT HAPPENED AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK, RIGHT? HAVING TO DO WITH NISHIMIYA-SAN?
Y... YEAH.
NAO-CHAN IS A LITTLE HOT-HEADED.
IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE TROUBLE WITH HER, TELL ME.
I'LL TALK TO HER AT SCHOOL.
TH... THANKS.
SHACK SHACK
WELL, I'D BETTER GET GOING.
...
SEE YA!
SEE YA!

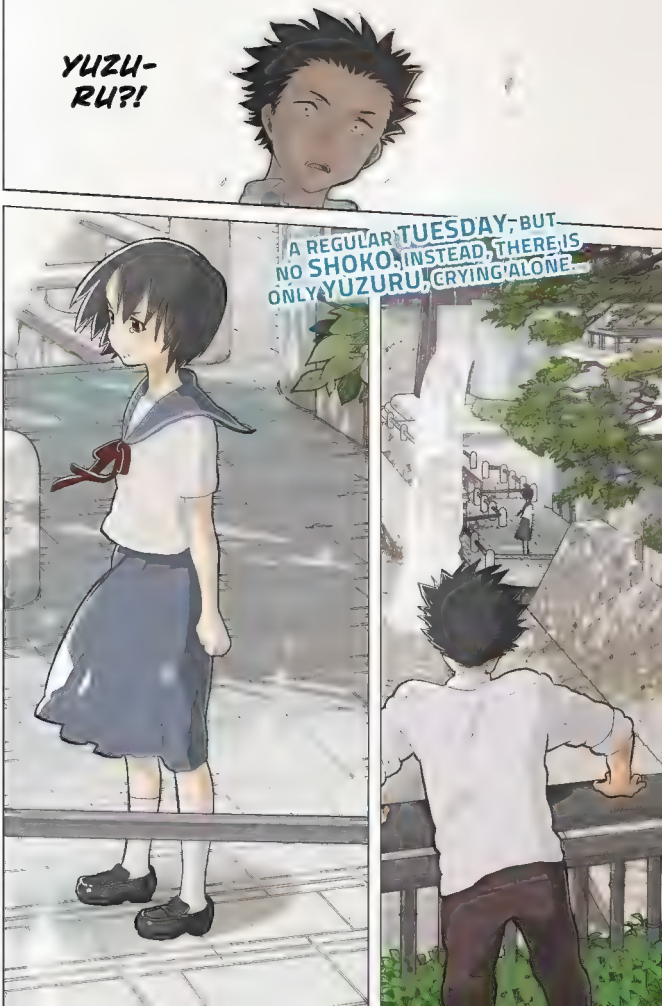
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
ALL RIGHT!
RUSTLE
NISHIMIYA...
I WISH YOU'D TEXT ME THESE THINGS TOO...
OH, MAYBE I SHOULD TEXT HER?!
"I HEAR YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO TODAY."
"WHEN YOU WEREN'T HERE, I THOUGHT YOUR STOMACH WAS HURTING AGAIN."
"OH HEY, HAVE YOU GOTTEN A REPLY FROM UENO?"
SHHHHHHHHHHH
HMM?
HMM?!

A REGULAR TUESDAY, BUT NO SHOKO. INSTEAD, THERE IS ONLY YUZURU, CRYING ALONE. WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?! NEXT ISSUE: A THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT - OPENING COLOR PAGES!

A SILENT VOICE

YOSHITOKI OIMA

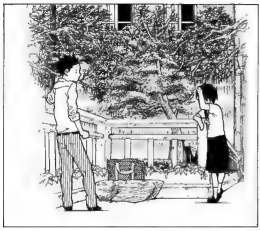
CHAPTER 30: SUPPORT


YUZU-
RU?!
A REGULAR TUESDAY, BUT
NO SHOKO. INSTEAD, THERE IS
ONLY YUZURU, CRYING ALONE.

SHH
YUZURU!
H
H
H
HHH
SHE'S CRY-ING...
Y-
WHAT IN THE HECK HAPPEN-ED TO HER?!
AND SHE'S WEARING HER UNI-FORM... DID SOME-THING HAPPEN AT SCHOOL?
SHHHHHH

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

Y...
...
HUH?
SHE'S GONE!
-SIGH-
HEY.



Y...

HMM?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

SO YOU
CAME?

HOW D'YA LIKE IT?!
SHWIP
OH... YOU LOOK GREAT! YOU LOOK GREAT!
OH... JUST NOW... UH...
ER...
WHAT?
YOUR UNI-FORM!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN IT BE-FORE!!
HAHA! DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO YOU?
I MEAN, WHY'D YOU START GOING TO SCHOOL?
"DID SOME-THING HAP-PEN"?

NO...
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
OH... REALLY?
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
NISHIMIYA ISN'T HERE, AND YUZURU'S ACTING LIKE THIS...
ALL RIGHT, YUZURU...
HUH? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHY DON'T WE GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT?

WHY, I'M HUNGRY OF COURSE!
YOU COME WITH ME!
HUH?
KLUNK
ALL RIGHT! EAT UP!
I'LL JUST TAKE THIS.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF AN APPETITE TODAY.
YOU DON'T?

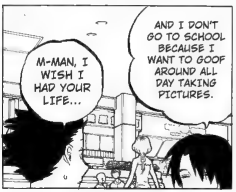
BY THE WAY, YOU HAVING FUN AT SCHOOL NOW?

I'M NOT GOING NOW EITHER.
THEN WHY WEREN'T YOU GOING TO SCHOOL BEFORE?

OH.
YOU KNOW, SAME AS USUAL.

MY AUNT'S...
WELL, TODAY WAS MY...

DIDN'T YOU GO TODAY?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


M-MAN, I WISH I HAD YOUR LIFE...
AND I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE I WANT TO GOOF AROUND ALL DAY TAKING PICTURES.

OH...
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
WED-DING?

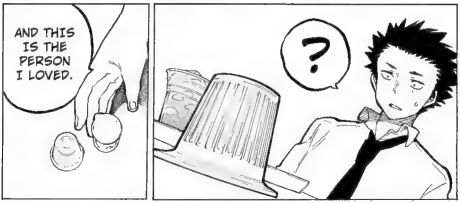
KLICK
KLICK
KLICK
KLICK
KLICK
LET ME SEE THOSE PICTURES.
SURE.
DUDE, THEY'RE ALL DEAD BODIES!
UGH
HAHA! WHAT'S WITH THAT?
...
WELL, I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM!
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS IN TO THIS KIND OF STUFF TOO!
I THINK IT'S GREAT.
BOY, YOU'RE A WEIRDO, YOU KNOW THAT? YOU REALLY LIKE THIS STUFF?
FRANKLY, YOU'VE GOT NO TASTE!
...
HUH? DON'T GET ALL MODEST ON ME!
OH!
NOW THIS ONE'S PRETTY GOOD!
KLICK

IS SHE ASLEEP?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE MORE LIKE THIS ONE?
THIS YOUR GRAND-MA?

YEAH.
BUT MOM GOT REALLY PISSED AFTER THIS ONE, SO I WON'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THESE.

...

THIS IS ME.


AND THIS IS THE PERSON I LOVED.
?

YESTERDAY, SHE WENT SOMEWHERE REAL FAR AWAY.
ME AND THIS PERSON WERE REAL CLOSE, BUT...
...WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHE GOT MARRIED AND MOVED FAR AWAY! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT!
MY AUNT... DIDN'T I JUST SAY THAT?
M...
BUT WASN'T THE WEDDING TODAY?
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
...

BOR-
ED...
SO NOW I'M ALL ALONE AND TOTALLY BORED.
Flip
DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME. I'M RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
B-BUT YOU'VE GOT ME INSTEAD, RIGHT?
WOW, YOU TRUST ME MORE THAN I THOUGHT.
I STILL ONLY TRUST YOU ABOUT 30%!
YOU'RE NO GOOD!
HAHA!

AND I CAN GET MORE IF YOU NEED THEM.
THIS IS SAHARA.
THIS IS NAGA-TSUKA.
ROLL
NISHI-MIYA... YOUR SISTER?
DON'T YOU HAVE...
PLUS...
THEY BOTH LOVE YOU.
IF YOU'RE BORED, YOU CAN COME TO MY PLACE, WHERE MOM AND MARIA ARE.

OH, A TEXT.

JING-A-LING!

SIS'S NO GOOD EITHER!
I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO BABYSIT HER.

SIS'S SO STUPID. MOM'S THE ONE WHO RAN ME OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
"MOM IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. COME BACK SOON."
LET'S SEE...

BUT IT'S DARK OUT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'LL WALK YOU.

I'LL TAKE THIS!

SLURP SLURP
WELP, I'D BETTER GET GOING.

GLUG GLUG

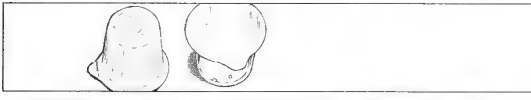
ABOUT YOU.
I'M WORRIED...
THAT'S REALLY NOT NECESSARY.
...
DON'T CREEP ME OUT.
YOU SOUND LIKE MY GRANDMA...
YOU WERE CRYING, WEREN'T YOU?

WHAT, YOU SAW THAT?
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
YES, IT DOES.

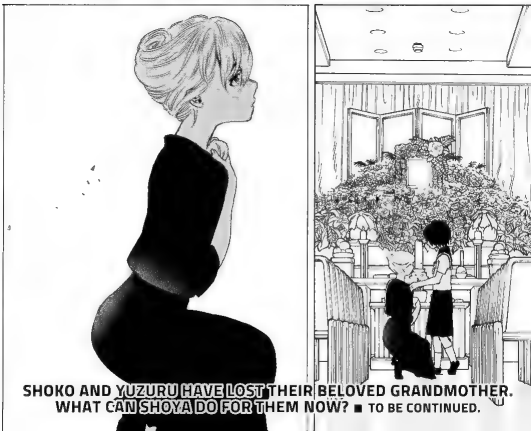
WHY DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU?

IT DOES.
BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO THINK...

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY REGRETS.
THEN TAG ALONG FOR ALL I CARE.
THANKS.



WE'RE HERE.
THANKS, ISHIDA. THIS'S FAR ENOUGH.
YEAH.
SEE YA.
...!!
西宮いと
*SIGN: "NISHIMIYA / FUNERA."



SHOKO AND YUZURU HAVE LOST THEIR BELOVED GRANDMOTHER. WHAT CAN SHOYA DO FOR THEM NOW? ■ TO BE CONTINUED.

A SILENT VOICE

CHAPTER 31: LETTER

THE NISHIMIYA SISTERS, LOST IN GRIEF OVER THE DEATH OF THE PERSON WHO UNDERSTOOD THEM BEST, THEIR GRANDMOTHER.

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

-:SOB:-
HANG IN THERE, MA'AM!
...
SHHH

...

!

NOD
NOD

I OWE A LOT TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER.
SHE EVEN CONTINUED TO HELP OUT AFTER YOU TRANSFERRED.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME...!! WELL, I GUESS SHE WOULDN'T... IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE THEN...

KITA-SENSEI?!

WAS THAT...

BOY, I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOU, SHOKO-CHAN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU AREN'T CRYING.
YOU'RE STRONG, AREN'T YOU?
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH CRYING...
GO ON, GET OUTTA HERE! IF THE HAG FINDS YOU, SHE'LL KICK YOUR BUTT!
YEAH... THAT'D SUCK!

I BUMPED INTO HIM IN TOWN.
HE WALKED ME HERE.

OH...IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. I'M NOT HERE TO CAUSE TROUBLE. WHEN I WENT TO THE BRIDGE, SAHARA-SAN WAS THE ONLY ONE THERE, SO I WAS GOING TO TEXT YOUR DAUGHTER, BUT THEN YUZURU-SAN WAS AT THE WATERFALL, AND WE WERE HUNGRY, SO...

I SEE.

OH, I DON'T THINK SO...
I'M SURE SHE'S JUST AS SAD AS ANYONE.

YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT WOMAN WASN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR SINCE GRANNY DIED...
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, HUH? HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HER CRY?
SHE'S GOT A SCREW LOOSE IN HER EMOTION CIRCUIT!

SKRITCH SKRITCH
SKRITCH SKRITCH
...
AS IF.

S-SHE PROB-ABLY...
HIDES IT FOR THE SAME REASON YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW YOU WERE CRYING.

TO YUZURU

...A LETTER?
I DIDN'T NOTICE IT WAS IN THERE.

HMM? THE HECK IS THIS?

DON'T TELL ME IT'S FROM GRANNY?

AHHH! I DON'T WANT TO READ THIS!
TALK ABOUT SCARY! WHAT WAS IT DOING IN MY UNI-FORM?!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR...
HER LAST FRIGGIN' WORDS...

COME ON, READ IT.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT
WHY NOT?

I CAN'T HANDLE THIS KIND OF STUFF
I MEAN, IT'S KIND OF SCARY.

TO YUZURU

TO YUZURU

READ IT TO ME, ISHIDA.

RUSTLE

"DEAR YUZU...
...IT'S GRANNY."

HUH?
"NO, YOU'RE PROBABLY AT THE FUNERAL HOME."
...."ARE YOU AT SCHOOL NOW?"
KEEP READ-ING.
I'M NOT KIDDING. THAT'S AC-TUALLY WHAT IT SAYS.
NOPE. SHE HASN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR.
"I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER IS SAD THAT I DIED."
YEAH, RIGHT.
ALL SHE DOES IS COMPLAIN.
"BUT I'M SURE IT IS A COMFORT TO HER THAT YOU AND SHOKO HAVE GROWN INTO SUCH FINE GIRLS."

EVERY TIME SHOKO CHANGED SCHOOLS, SHE'D THROW IN A LITTLE JAB...
IT REALLY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME!

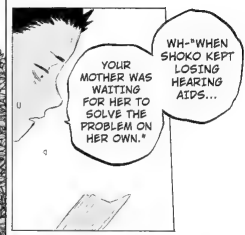
"SUPPORTED"?!!!
HOW?!

"YOU GIRLS MUST HAVE DONE YOUR VERY BEST...
AND YOUR MOTHER SUPPORTED YOU AS YOU WENT TO SCHOOL, EVEN AS SHE WORKED HER BUTT OFF HERSELF."

YES, YOU'LL HAVE TO TRANSFER AGAIN.
FRANKLY, THIS SCHOOL WAS NEVER MY FIRST CHOICE ANYWAY.

"I TALKED WITH HER A LOT...
AND SHE MAY HAVE COME OFF AS COLD TO YOU, YUZU..."
"BUT SHE THOUGHT ABOUT THINGS IN HER OWN WAY."
THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE!

IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS PLAYING THE CARING MOTHER IN SOME TRAGEDY.
...THAT'S TOTALLY WRONG. SHE WAS JUST WAITING FOR THE DAMAGE TO GET BIG ENOUGH.

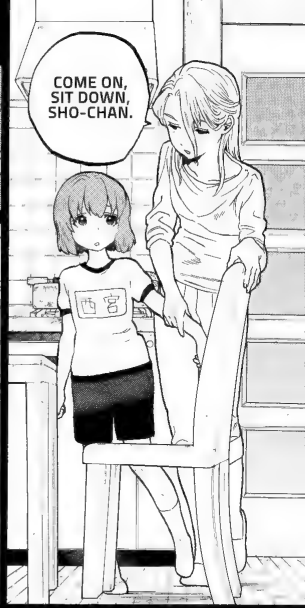

WH-"WHEN SHOKO KEPT LOSING HEARING AIDS...
YOUR MOTHER WAS WAITING FOR HER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM ON HER OWN."

THAT'S THE SIXTH ONE.
THAT ONLY DRAGGED THINGS OUT!
WHAP

THAT'S A PRETTY HIGH-HANDED APPROACH IF YOU ASK ME! WHAT ABOUT SHOKO?!
"GROW STRONGER"?!

"I GUESS SHE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD CHANCE FOR SHOKO TO GROW STRONGER EVEN IF SHE COULDN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM."

?


COME ON, SIT DOWN, SHO-CHAN.

WE'RE CUTTING YOUR HAIR.

NO, I DON'T.
BUT SHE JUST HAD IT CUT...
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?

COME ON, SIT DOWN!
HOLD ON! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S SHORT ENOUGH?
WHAT?
...
COME ON, NO THEY WON'T.
STAY OUT OF THIS, MOTHER!
THOSE STUPID BRATS AT SCHOOL WILL MAKE FUN OF HER IF SHE LOOKS LIKE THIS!
I'M GOING TO MAKE HER LOOK MORE LIKE A BOY!
SNIP
SHE CAN'T EVEN DEFEND HERSELF! JUST WATCHING HER INFURIATES ME!
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ON THE OUTSIDE!
SHOKO MUST GROW STRONGER!!

SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP

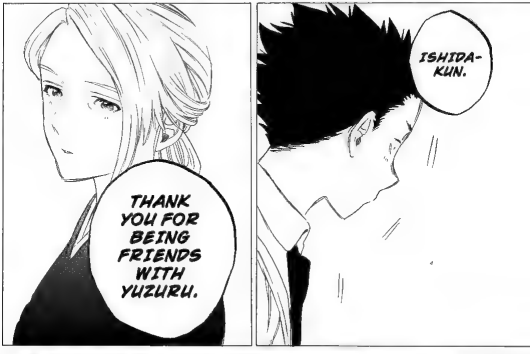
AHA
HAHA

"IT SEEMS YOUR MOTHER BELIEVES BEING STRICT WITH YOU WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER."
"BUT SHE APPLIES THE SAME RULE TO HERSELF...
SO EVEN TODAY, SHE IS PROBABLY FIGHTING BACK HER TEARS..."

"AS SHE DUTIFULLY MAKES TEA."

"THE SAME WAY YOU WERE HIDING YOUR TEARS EARLIER, YUZU."
"HEHEH."
WH AP!
KRUNCH KRUNCH
TOSS!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YUZURU?!
THANKS FOR TODAY, ISHIDA. YOU CAN GO NOW.

I'M NOT LIKE HER! GRANNY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A THING!
...



THE DEPRESSION HANGING OVER THE NISHIMIYA HOUSE-HOLD IS A HOLE HE DUG IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. AT LEAST, THAT IS HOW IT SEEMS TO ISHIDA. WHAT CAN HE DO? ■ TO BE CONTINUED

A SILENT VOICE

CHAPTER 32: GUM SYRUP

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

SHOKO'S DISABILITY WAS DISCOVERED...

WHEN SHE WAS THREE.

THE NISHIMIYA FAMILY'S PAST, NOW REVEALED...

WHY?
WELL...
IN SHORT...
BECAUSE YOU DECEIVED US.
YOU DIDN'T TELL US YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE BIRTH TO A DEAF KID.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THIS IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM?!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS CAUSED BY AN ILLNESS!
WHICH MEANS IT'S YOUR FAULT, RIGHT?
I MEAN, IF THE PROBLEM OCCURRED WHILE SHOKO WAS INSIDE YOU...
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS THAT KIND OF ILLNESS!
SEE? IT WAS YOUR FAULT!
I CAUGHT IT FROM YOU!!
YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE VACCINATION!
WELL... IF I HAD KNOWN AT THE TIME...
WHAT BOTHERS ME IS HOW LONG IT TOOK TO DISCOVER THE DISABILITY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T HIDING THIS FROM US?

TO HIDE IT?!
WHY... WOULD I...
EVEN NEED...
I TOLD YOU! IT WAS AN ILLNESS! A VIRUS!
ARE YOU SURE THE PROBLEM ISN'T WITH *YOU*?
BONK BONK
I'M TIRED OF YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE REASON IS.
THERE MUST BE A REASON SHOKO WAS BORN THIS WAY.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...

"KARMA"...
SHOKO MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE IN A PREVIOUS LIFE.
OR MAYBE YOU DID...
WHAT?!
Y... YOU'RE BLOWING THIS WAY OUT OF PROPORTION!
SO SHE CAN'T HEAR...
YOU'RE MAKING IT SOUND LIKE...
SOME KIND OF LIFE OR DEATH MATTER! BUT IT'S NOT!!

WHO WOULDN'T ACCEPT A LITTLE HELP?!
ONCE THEY GET OLD, EVERYONE ACCEPTS HELP FROM SOMEONE!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "BLOWING IT OUT OF PROPORTION"?! YOU'RE GONNA MOOCH OFF THE GOVERNMENT TEAT, AREN'T YA?!
I'M SURE THAT BRAT WILL TURN OUT THE SAME WAY!
NEITHER OF YOU KNOW HOW THE WORLD WORKS!
IN THE FIRST PLACE, SHE'S A DEAF KID WHO CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HER!!
WHAT INSOLENCE!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK ABOUT YOUR OWN GRANDCHILD?
WHAT...
...WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG?

GIVES YOU ANY RIGHT TO DECIDE THAT?!
IF YOU DON'T THINK IT'S WRONG, THEN WHY DON'T YOU RAISE HER?
WE DON'T WANT ANY-ONE LIKE THAT IN OUR FAMILY.

BONK
BOP BOP
BOP BOP
...
MOTHER.
TOMOR-
ROW...I'LL
GO TO THAT
JOB INTER-
VIEW AT THE
HOSPITAL.
ALL
RIGHT...
...

I THINK I'M PREG-NANT...
WHAT'S WRONG?!!!
HUUURK
STOMP
-URP-
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN NOW?!
HOORAY! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE BABY!!
HUH?
I THINK I'LL TAKE SHOKO AND THIS NEW ONE TO LEARN SIGN LAN-GUAGE!
I WON'T RUN.
I'LL LOOK AFTER THE KIDS, SO YOU JUST LEAVE THEM TO ME!
MOTHER...
NOT FROM MY DAUGH-TER.
AND NOT FROM MY GRAND-CHILDREN.

THANK YOU, MOTHER.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
I'M SURE THIS CHILD WILL GROW UP STRONG.
I THINK THAT MUST BE THE DAY YOUR MOTHER SWORE OFF CRYING.

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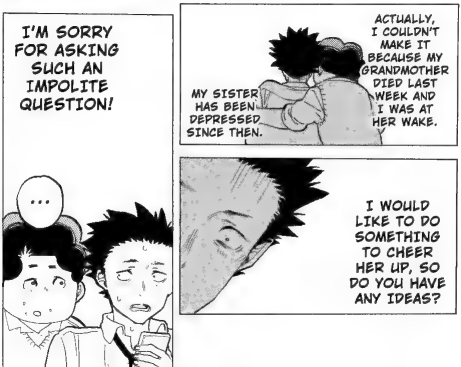
...
...
...
DO YOU THINK...
THE FLAVOR IS TOO STRONG?
NOT REALLY?
...?
I SEE...
I THINK YOUR MOTHER WILL CHANGE AGAIN STARTING TODAY...
EVEN IF YOU DON'T NOTICE, YUZU.

WHY THE LONG FACE?
WHAT'S WRONG, YA-SHO?
I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW I COULD CHEER SOMEONE UP.
YEAH.
HUH? DO I LOOK GLOOMY?
IT LOOKS LIKE BOTH OF THEM, BUT ESPECIALLY YUZURU, DON'T GET ALONG WELL WITH THEIR MOTHER, AND IT BOTHERS ME...
THE NISHIMIYA SISTERS.
WHO DO YOU WANT TO CHEER UP?
OH?
BZZZT BZZZT
...MAYBE I'LL ASK SAHARA-SAN...
OH, GIVE HER A PIECE OF CANDY AND SHE'LL CHEER RIGHT UP!

IT'S FROM NISHI-MIYA!
WHAT COULD SHE WANT?!
nomomo
88%
< BACK
ALL MESSAGES
EDIT
Search
Shoko Nishimiya
Today >
Hello. Ishida-kun, I'm sorry I couldn't come to the bridge last week.
Tomohiro Nagatsuka
Yes. >
Has Ueno-san said anything about me? If she does, tell me right away, dude, cuz I want...
Mom
Yes. >
You left your lunch at home, didn't you?!!! Maria ate it!!

DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOUR ADVICE ON SOMETHING?
ISHIDA-KUN, I'M SORRY I COULDN'T COME TO THE BRIDGE LAST WEEK.

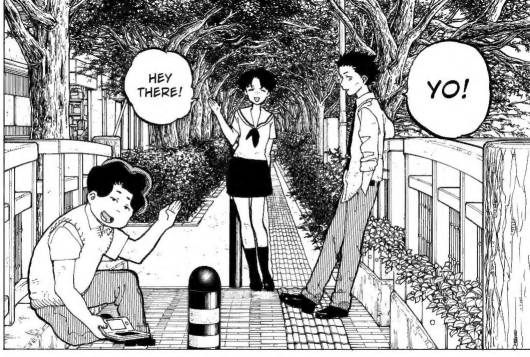

I'M SORRY FOR ASKING SUCH AN IMPOLITE QUESTION!
...
MY SISTER HAS BEEN DEPRESSED SINCE THEN.
ACTUALLY, I COULDN'T MAKE IT BECAUSE MY GRANDMOTHER DIED LAST WEEK AND I WAS AT HER WAKE.
I WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING TO CHEER HER UP, SO DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

SHE USED TO COME HERE ALL THE TIME...
CHEER UP, YOU TWO.

WE HEARD YOUR GRAND-MOTHER DIED.
SUIMON SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB
THIS WAY

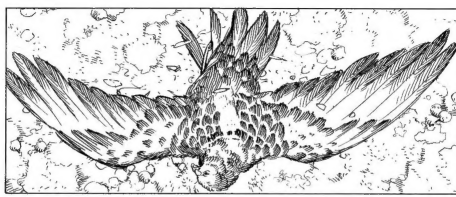
OH...

...


HEY THERE!
YO!

YO...
Y-

COME ALONG, YUZURU!
TODAY, WE'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU!!
WHY'D YOU GET ME A PRE-SENT?!
A PRE-SENT?!



NAH, IT'S TOO CLEAN. TWO POINTS!
SNAP
ISN'T IT A GREAT CARCASS?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW HARD IT WAS TO FIND!
OHHH!

GRIN
OH?!
YOU THINK IT'S GROSS, HUH?!

HUH?
IS IT GROSS, SIS?

HUH ?!!!
OH! THAT WAS A NICE SMILE!
SUPER CUTE!
...
SPEAKING OF CUTE, YOU LOOKED REALLY GOOD IN YOUR UNIFORM THE OTHER DAY!
OH, NOT THAT YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD TODAY!
WILL YOU WEAR YOUR UNIFORM EVERY DAY FOR ME?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM, SIS?! THEY'RE ACTING ALL CREEPY!
SHE CAN KEEP A SECRET!
SHE'S TINY!
SHE EATS A LOT!
OH, I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE ALL LIST OFF YUZURU'S GOOD POINTS?

HUG
EVERY-ONE WANTS TO CHEER YOU UP.
SERIOUSLY. WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU PEOPLE?!
HUH?
...
I CAN GET MORE IF YOU NEED THEM.
DID YOU REALLY THINK THIS WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY?!
IN THAT CASE, YOU GUYS DON'T UNDER-STAND ME AT ALL!!
THANK YOU.
UGH...
AH...
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW UNCOOL HE LOOKS, HE WANTS TO FILL THE HOLES IN HIS FRIENDS' HEARTS THE BEST HE CAN — FROM NOW ON.

■ TO BE CONTINUED